THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Prime Minister announced on 15th August, 1994 that 20 lakh children engaged in hazardous occupations will be withdrawn from work and put into schools in the course of next 4-5 years. Following this announcement, a National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Union Labour Minister. The NAECL has adopted a plan of action titled "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour". This plan of action has already been forwarded to all the State Governments/U.Ts for follow up action. This plan covers the range of actions required to tackle the child labour problem especially in hazardous occupations. It is proposed to divert 20 lakh children working in hazardous occupations from work into education in a phased manner as under:—

1995-96	2.00 lakh
1996-97	4.00 lakh
1997-98	6.00 lakh
1998-99	6.00 lakh
1999-2000	2.00 lakh

It has been estimated that an amount of Rs. 850 crores would be required to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations. During the current financial year, there is a budget provision of Rs. 34.40 crores for undertaking programmes related to the elimination of child labour in hazardous occupations largely based on the existing National Child Labour Project Scheme. Under this scheme the major activity being undertaken is that of establishment of special schools to provide education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, health care, and stipends to the children withdrawn from employment. As per the recommendations of the NAECL, Child Labour Projects to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations have been sanctioned in 63 child labour endemic districs of the country. This is in addition to the on-going National Child Labour Projects. In all, around 136,000 children in 11 states namely A.P., M.P., Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, U.P., Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are to be covered under the Projects.

In order to prevent fresh entry of children into hazardous employments, laws protective of children will be more rigorously enforced. In addition poverty alleviation and income generation programmes of the Government will focus on the families of child labour with a view to economically strengthening them and encouraging them to send their children to schools instead of to work.

A massive awareness generation campaign to sensitize people against child labour has also been launched at the central level through major national/ regional dailies. Films and spots have also been prepared for awareness generation campaign through the electronic media for the purpose. Further, an amount of Rs. 6.65 crores has been released for awareness generation activities at the districts level to 133 child labour endemic districts. 123 districts have also been sanctioned funds to carry out surveys to identify child labour engaged in hazardous occupations.

Number of Persons Registered in Employment Exchanges

*113. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered in Employment Exchanges in the counrty particularly in the State of Punjab as on 30th June, 1995, State-wise; and

(b) the number of educated unemployed among them as on that date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) and (b) State-wise number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed,

on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on 30.6.1995 is furnished in Statement-I attached (*See* below) The information on Educated (Matric & above) job-seekers is available upto the year 1993. Data on State-wis number of educated job-seeker alongwith the total job-seekers as o 31-12-1993 is furnished in Statement-I attached.

Statement-I

Number of job-seekers on the live register of employment exchanges in th country as on 30-6-1995

(In thousands

State/Union Territories	Number of job-seekers on the live regis ter of employment exchanges in th country as on 30-6-199
1	2
States	
1. Andhra Pradesh	2788.
2. Arunachal Pradesh	10.
3. Assam	1211.
4. Bihar	3724.
5. Goa	107.
6. Gujarat	902.
7. Haryana	677.
8. Himachal Pradesh	562.
9. Jammu & Kashmir	142.
10. Karnataka	1691.
11. Kerala	4018.
12. Madhya Pradesh	2048.
13. Maharashtra	3496.
14. Manipur	260.
15. Meghalaya	27.
16. Mizoram	44.
17. Nagaland	21.
18. Orissa	863.
19. Punjab	523.
20. Rajasthan	783.
21. Sikkim*	
22. Tamil Nadu	3534.

1	2
23. Tripura	196.6
24. Uttar Pradesh	2413.2
25. West Bengal	5178.5
Union Territories	
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	19.7
27. Chandigarh	154.2
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4.2
29. Delhi	1002.0
30. Daman & Diu	4.8
31. Lakshadweep	8.9
32. Pondicherry	143.3
TOTAL:	36565.4

Note:—1. * No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.
2. Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

Statement-II

Number of job-seekers on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on 31-12-1993

(In thousands)

State/Union Territories	Number of job-seekers on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on 31-12-1993	
	Total	Educated (Matric & above) included in Total (P)
1	2	3
States		
1. Andhra Pradesh	2996.6	2023.1
2. Arunachal Pradesh	7.7	0.3
3. Assam	1377.0	798.1
4. Bihar	3339.3	2256.6

1	2	3
5. Goa	116.3	85.4
6. Gujarat	973.6	632.6
7. Haryana	676.3	431.7
8. Himachal Pradesh	482.8	334.2
9. Jammu & Kashmir	137.8	62.4
10. Karnataka	1575.4	1033.9
11. Kerala	4171.0	2716.7
12. Madhya Pradesh	1939.6	1435.7
13. Maharashtra	3349.4	2302.3
14. Manipur	229.9	154.6
15. Meghalaya	27.6	12.5
16. Mizoram	39.9	16.9
17. Nagaland	20.7	12.4
18. Orissa	857.8	538.1
19. Punjab	645.8	433.2
20. Rajasthan	828.7	525.2
21. Sikkim*		
22. Tamil Nadu	3860.0	2367.8
23. Tripura	189.2	54.8
24. Uttar Pradesh	2379.6	1671.3
25. West Bengal	4815.1	2889.6
Union Territories		
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	18.8	8.6
27. Chandigarh	161.6	90.7
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3.5	1.2
29. Delhi	908.0	694.8
30. Daman & Diu	3.0	1.2

1	2	3
31. Lakshadweep	7.9	1.7
32. Pondicherry	135.5	78.7
TOTAL:	36275.5	23666.4

NOTE:—1.*No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.
2. Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.
3. P Provisional.

India's export share in International Market

*114. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's share of exports in international market is very low at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of its actual share; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) India's share in world exports during 1993 is 0.58% as per available data regarding world trade. Initially India's economic policies were greared towards import substitution. It is since 1991 that India has decided to accelerate the country's transition to an internationally oriented economy.

(c) Recognising that international trade is a key component of global economic activity today, the Government have taken a number of steps to encourage and maintain strong export growth. India's trade policy was liberalised in July' 91 to respond to the opportunities and challenges posed by the domestic and international developments. The trade policy has aimed at creating a free environment for trade, strengthening the export promotion structure, removing procedural irritants through simplification and streamlining of procedures, increasing export production, improving efficiency and sharpening competitive edge, facilitating input availability, focussing on quality and technological upgradation besides introducing and strengthening schemes for export promotion. Efforts have been made to provide cheaper export credits and provide tax exemption on export profits Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and concerned institutions.

Meeting of SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation

*115. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 6th meeting of the SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation (CEC) under the Chairmanship of Indian Commerce Secretary was held in New Delhi recently as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 17.11.95; and

(b) if so, what concrete steps were taken by the SAARC body to promote trade and economic cooperation amongst SAARC countries?